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# Historic Sites in Maine

Maine Department of Economic Development

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## THE VACATION PLANNER

This Vacation Planner is only a sketch of the historic sites and memorials under the management of Maine State Park and Recreation Commission. It has been prepared to assist you in basic planning and to provide you with sources of specific information.

*(continued from inside)*

10. **Fort William Henry** (1692), a replica of part of the 3rd of 4 forts built on this site, the 1st erected about 1630 for defense against pirates. Here are old relics, portraits, maps, and copies of Indian deeds. From Damariscotta on Rt. #129, 4 miles, take Rt. #130 for 9 miles, bear right one mile.

11. **John Paul Jones Memorial** (1927). Near this site, in 1777, the U. S. S. Ranger was built and launched. On this ship, Jones received the first salute by a foreign power given a man-of-war flying the Stars and Stripes. At entrance to Maine on U. S. #1.

12. **Katahdin Iron Works** (1843), a blast furnace and charcoal kiln restored at the site of a once thriving iron works. For nearly half a century about 2,000 tons of raw iron were produced annually. Charcoal was made in 14 kilns consuming 10,000 cords of wood a year. From Rt. #11, 5 miles north of Brownville Junction, take gravel road 6 miles to "K. I."

13. **Mere Point Memorial** (1924), a marker commemorates the landing in the U. S., Sept. 6, 1924, of the United States Army Round-the-World aviators, 5 months after starting westward from Seattle, Washington. Inquire directions in Brunswick.

14. **Montpelier** (1793), a handsome replica of the original mansion, containing most of the original possessions of Major General and Mrs. Henry Knox. One of the great heroes of the Revolutionary War, at age 31 Knox became the youngest Major General and is attributed with planning all the battles won by Washington. After the war, for 10 years he served as the first Secretary of War, during which time he built "Montpelier". One mile east of Thomaston on U. S. #1.

*(continued)*

15. **Vaughan Woods,** on the banks of Salmon Falls River, whispers thoughts from the past. Here at "Cow Cove" the first cows in this part of the country were landed, in 1634, from the ship "The Pied Cow". This ship also brought America's first sawmill which was erected nearby. Much of this 250 acre tract is forest, with nature trails and markers identifying flora of this woodland. Off Rt. #91, ½ mile south of South Berwick, turn west opposite High School, 1 mile to entrance.

* * * * * * *

In addition to the sites already described, the Park & Recreation Commission recently acquired as gifts two more areas which, when completely opened to the public, will be of interest to many.

One, on the Damariscotta River, encompasses a portion of the ancient "Oyster Shell Heaps", one of the largest such deposits in the world. These shell heaps resulted from the "shore dinners" of ancient inhabitants and are of great interest to historians and scientists. Why don't oysters thrive in Maine today?

The other is the home of Admiral Robert E. Peary. On windswept Eagle Island off Harpswell, this site will be a fitting memorial to the great explorer. Plans call for restoration of the house, docking facilities, nature trails and an interpretive program depicting the determination with which Admiral Peary pursued his goal -- the North Pole.

## VACATION PLANNERS

This is ONE in a series of 30 vacation planners being programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development and due for completion by January 1, 1970. We have found that prospective visitors to Maine are primarily interested in the "facts", and with this in mind we are designing these brochures to be factual in their presentation. We would appreciate receiving your comments as to the type of factual brochure you would like to see. Please write:

*Mr. Clarence F. McKay, Promotion Director*
Maine Dept. of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

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**State House, Augusta, Maine 04330**

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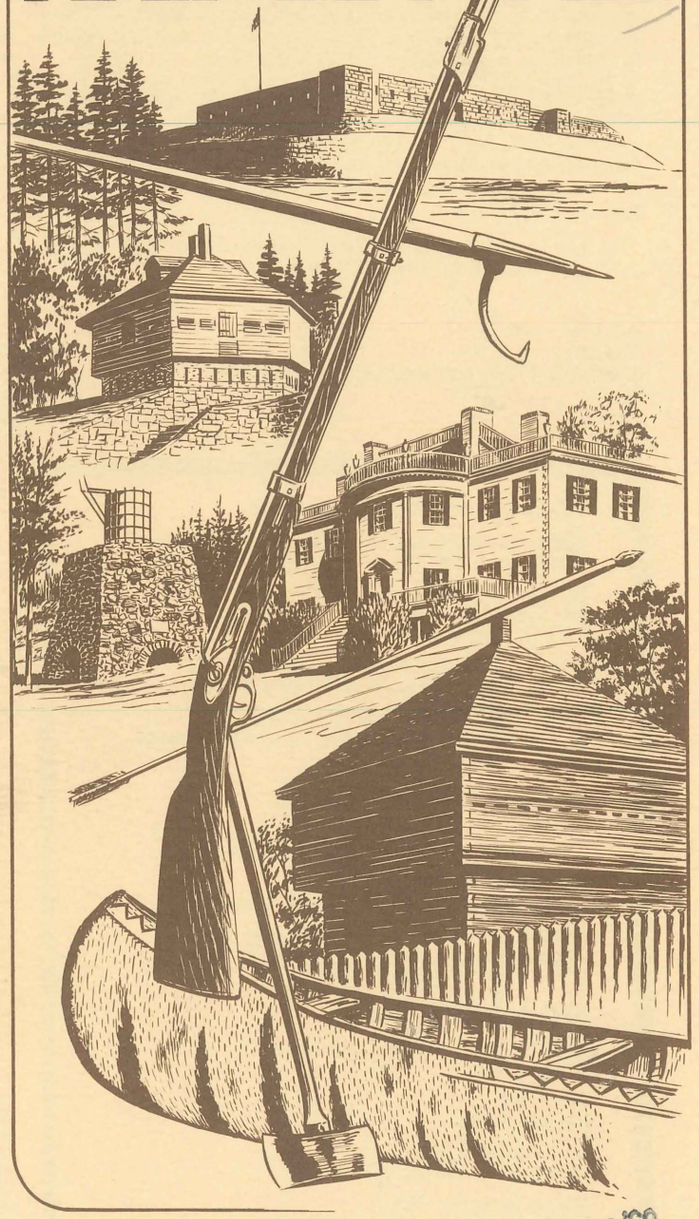
# HISTORIC SITES IN MAINE



JE 10 '69
Maine. Economic Development Department.

Vacation Planner

# MAINE POINTS OF HISTORY

Old forts scattered along the Maine Coast, designed to protect America's harbors during the Revolution, the Civil War and the War of 1812 .....

An iron works in the wilderness.....

The replica of a Revolutionary War hero's mansion .....

These are among the historic sites in Maine preserved and interpreted by the State Park & Recreation Commission. Thousands every year discover that Maine has an exciting history to explore as well as other tourist attractions.

Only a few of Maine's many and varied memorials are currently in State ownership and it is these few that we want to acquaint you with in this brochure. Many other historic memorabilia are under private or municipal management, and information about many of these may be obtained from the sources listed below.

"To pay a personal visit to an historic shrine is to receive a concept such as no book can supply."

Lawrence Stuart
Director
Maine State Park and Recreation Commission

**Publications and Other Information**

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Publicity Bureau
922 Gateway Circle
Portland, Maine 04102

State of Maine Information Center
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

**For Additional Information write:**

Maine State Park and Recreation Commission
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

New England Council
Statler Building, Boston, Mass. 02116

Maine Commission on the Arts & Humanities
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

**Other Information Centers:**

Jct. of U. S. Route #1 and Maine Turnpike
Kittery, Maine

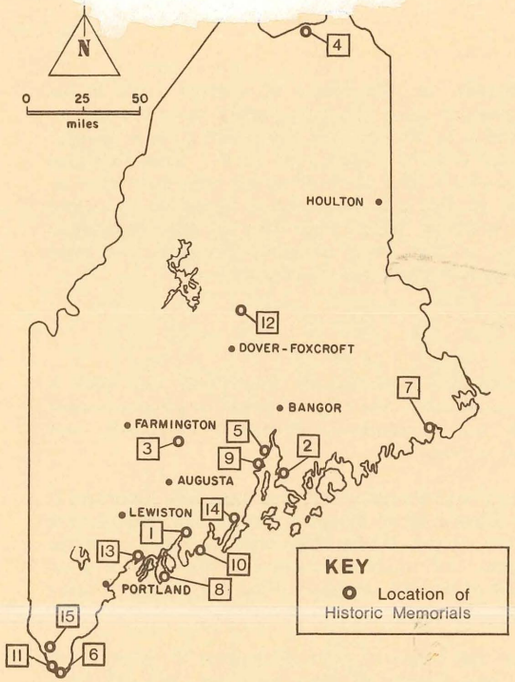
Bass Park
Bangor, Maine

U. S. Route #302
Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)

Maine Turnpike, North
Cumberland, Maine (summer only)

International Bridge
Calais, Maine (summer only)

All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices




| | HISTORIC MEMORIALS | LOCATION | Highway Map *Index | Interpretive Displays | Museum | Picnic | Snack Bar | Fireplaces | Camping | Nature Trails | OPEN DATES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Fort Edgecomb | North Edgecomb | E-12 | ● | | ● | | | | | May 30 to Oct. 15* |
| 2 | Fort George | Castine | G-11 | ● | | | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 3 | Fort Halifax | Winslow | E-10 | | | | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 4 | Fort Kent | Fort Kent | G-1 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 5 | Fort Knox | Prospect | G-10 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | May 1 to Nov. 1 |
| 6 | Fort McClary | Kittery Point | B-14 | ● | | ● | | ● | | | May 30 to Oct. 15* |
| 7 | Fort O'Brien | Machiasport | J-10 | ● | | | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 8 | Fort Popham | Popham Beach | D-13 | ● | | ● | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 9 | Fort Pownall | Stockton Springs | G-10 | ● | | | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 10 | Fort William Henry | Pemaquid Beach | E-12 | | ● | | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 11 | John Paul Jones | Kittery | B-14 | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Katahdin Iron Works | T.6, R. 9 | F-7 | | | ● | | | | | May 30 thru Labor Day |
| 13 | Mere Point | Brunswick | D-13 | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Montpelier | Thomaston | F-11 | | | | | | | | May 30 thru Sept. 10 |
| 15 | Vaughan Woods | South Berwick | B-14 | ● | | ● | | | | ● | May 30 thru Labor Day* |

*Index keyed to official Maine Highway Map

*Week-ends to Nov. 1

## GENERAL INFORMATION

With few exceptions (see chart), the season for visiting the Memorials under jurisdiction of the State Park & Recreation Commission extends from May 30 to Labor Day.

Visiting hours are 10:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.

Where there are fees they range from 15¢ to 50¢. Children under 12 free, in family groups.

At historic Montpelier, restored home of Major General Henry Knox, guided tours are available at 50¢ per person.

Brief histories of many of the forts and Montpelier may be purchased on site for 25¢.

Several areas (see chart) have picnic facilities on the grounds.

Locations of the sites are given in the Highway Map Index on the chart.

In addition to the Memorials listed in this brochure, the Commission offers, in cooperation with the Highway Commission and Central Maine Power Company, historic markers commemorating General Arnold's march through Maine to Quebec. Scattered from Fort Popham to the International Boundary at Coburn Gore these include sites at Hallowell, Skowhegan, Caratunk, Stratton, and Chain of Ponds. Consisting of large Interpretive Panels, the markers depict action which took place at a particular site, excerpts from diaries of some who accompanied Arnold, and a map outlining the route of this incredible march.

## MEMORIAL MEMORANDA

1. **Fort Edgecomb** (1808), octagon blockhouse and restored fortifications built to protect Wiscasset, then the most important shipping center north of Boston. The fort overlooks the Sheepscot River, where brown seals are often seen. South off U.S. #1 at Edgecomb end of Wiscasset bridge, then next right.

2. **Fort George** (1779), earthworks and fortifications which have been under the flags of four nations - French, English, Dutch, and American. Archeologic research and reconstruction are being achieved. Rt. #166 to Castine; inquire in Castine.

3. **Fort Halifax** (1754), as far as we know, the oldest blockhouse in the U. S.; part of a larger fortification used as a way-station for Col. Benedict Arnold's expedition through the Maine wilderness to Quebec in 1775. On U. S. #201, a mile south of Winslow-Waterville Bridge.

4. **Fort Kent** (1839), this blockhouse, part of more extensive fortifications, was built for the bloodless Aroostook Border War; contains a small museum of lumbering and Indian artifacts. U. S. #1 or State Rt. #11 or #161.

5. **Fort Knox**, begun in 1844 as part of the defense for the Aroostook War. Constructed of granite from nearby Mt. Waldo, the masonry shows master workmanship, remaining in excellent shape for more than a century. On Rt. #174 off U. S. #1 southwest of Bucksport.

6. **Fort McClary** (1846), restored hexagonal blockhouse on the site of a fort built in 1809. This place was fortified as early as 1715 by Massachusetts Bay Colony (which included area that is now Maine) to protect their merchants from taxes by the colony of New Hampshire. Leave Turnpike and U. S. #1 at rotary in Kittery, south on Kittery Point Road, Rt. #103.

7. **Fort O'Brien** or **Fort Machias** (1775), overlooking Machias Bay at the site of the first naval engagement of the Revolution, five days before the Battle of Bunker Hill. Only breastworks remain. 5 miles from Machias on Rt. #92.

8. **Fort Popham** (1861), semi-circular granite fort; fortifications here have guarded the Kennebec River during the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, and the Spanish War. Nearby, in 1607 the English made their first attempt to colonize New England. A little further west, markings on a boulder indicate Vikings had landed here earlier. Excellent beach nearby at Popham Beach State Park. 15 miles from Bath on Rt. #209.

9. **Fort Pownall** (1759), located and built by Massachusetts Royal Governor Thomas Pownall. To prevent its being taken intact by American patriots, the British twice fired the wooden fort -- in 1775 and 1779. Earthworks, with archeologic research and grounds restoration in process. Leave U. S. #1 at Stockton Springs, 3½ miles.

*(continued on other side)*